

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer to introduce fluid into the spine of the patient;  
a computer readable medium having code for receiving:  
fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter; and  
response data indicative of magnitude and quality of a response of the patient at a time related to a time of the fluid introduction data.

9. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the fluid introduction parameter is a pressure within an intervertebral disc of the patient at the time of the fluid introduction data.

10. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the fluid introduction parameter is a total amount of fluid introduced into an intervertebral disc of the patient at the time of the fluid introduction data.

11. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the fluid introduction system is configured to obtain the response data from an observation of the patient.

12. (Currently Amended) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the fluid introduction system is configured to obtain the response data upon a response input by the patient.

13. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the introducer is configured to create a pressure of at least 100 kPa within the spine.

14. (Original) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce a non-pulsatile flow of fluid into a spine, the introducer having a flow rate-dependent impedance opposing the introduction of the fluid; and  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer, the operator including code to control the actuation of the introducer based at least in part upon impedance data indicative of the impedance.

15. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the introducer includes an identifier including the impedance data and the operator is configured to receive the impedance data from the identifier of the introducer.

16. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the operator includes code to determine the impedance data based upon an actuation of the introducer.

17. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 16, comprising:  
a pressure sensor configured to provide pressure data indicative of a pressure of fluid present in the introducer;  
a fluid introduction sensor configured to provide fluid introduction data indicative of at least one of (a) a rate of fluid introduction and (b) an amount of fluid introduced into the portion of the spine; and

wherein the operator includes code to determine the impedance data based upon the pressure data and the fluid introduction data.

18. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the introducer is configured to create a pressure of at least 69 kPa within the spine.

Claims 19-36. (Cancelled)

37. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the response data comprises a patient's pain level and concordance.

38. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the response data comprises data input directly by the patient using a sliding device.

39. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 38, further comprising the sliding device.

40. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 39, wherein the sliding device is correlated to a visual analog scale (VAS) from 0-10 and includes an axis for relating level of concordance, non-concordance, or concordance and non-concordance of the pain.

41. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the response data comprises observed physiological parameters.

42. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 41, wherein observed physiological parameters comprises electromyographic response data.

43. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 41, wherein observed physiological parameters comprises audiovisual recordings of facial responses.

44. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

45. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the introducer comprises a needle configured for insertion into a spine.

46. (New) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer to introduce fluid into the spine of the patient;  
a computer readable medium having code for receiving:  
fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter; and  
response data indicative of a response of the patient input directly by the patient at a time related to a time of the fluid introduction data.

47. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 46, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

48. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 46, wherein the response data comprises data input directly by the patient using a sliding device.

49. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 48, further comprising the sliding device.

50. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 49, wherein the sliding device is correlated to a visual analog scale (VAS) from 0-10 and includes an axis for relating level of concordance, non-concordance, or concordance and non-concordance of the pain.

51. (New) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer to introduce fluid into the spine of the patient;  
a computer readable medium having code for receiving:  
fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter; and  
response data indicative of a response of the patient at a time related to a time of the fluid introduction data, wherein the response data comprises electromyographic response data.

52. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 48, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

53. (New) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer to introduce fluid into the spine of the patient;  
a computer readable medium having code for receiving:  
fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter; and  
response data indicative of a response of the patient at a time related to a time of the fluid introduction data, wherein the response data comprises an audiovisual recording of a patient response.

54. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 50, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

55. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the impedance data comprises a gauge of a fluid introduction member.

56. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the impedance data comprises a length of a fluid introduction member.

57. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the impedance data comprises an inner diameter of a fluid conduit.

58. (New) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the impedance data comprises a length of a fluid conduit.